



**\*He Is Savior, Acts 4:12**

**September 1, 2013**

## **H.I.S. Ministries September Newsletter, covering August 2013**

**Our hot summer is almost over, and we are glad.** I didn't think I would ever say that after the very cold winter and spring we had, but this has been way over my comfort-zone. Only rarely we had a "cool" 90 plus, rest of the time 100 plus, and in Southern Utah even higher than that. We can see, and now even *smell* the results. There are 10 separate fires currently burning in Utah that have destroyed many homes, lots of forests and rangeland. It is interesting that in the Eastern states there has been too much rain, resulting in floods, and in the Western states there has been no rain but only dry thunderstorms with lightning that has caused fires. Weather surely has been in the news.

There is nothing we can do about the weather, but there is something very significant that we can do to help people to be prepared for what we all have to face some day. **"As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."** (Hebr. 9:27.) Death comes to everyone, that is 100% sure. We just do not know when. Death can come to us at any age – young or old. It can come suddenly without warning by accident or heart attack, with no time to prepare then, or it may come after a long illness that provides the time to evaluate where a person stands with God. But when death comes, at that moment everyone will face their eternal destiny – is it heaven or hell? Our bodies may die but our spirit and soul will live forever. How do we prepare for eternity? In Luke 16:19-32, Jesus told about a poor man, Lazarus, who had died as a believer in God, and he was in comfort, but the other man had not cared to know God while he lived a comfortable life, also died, but he was in torment, begging that Lazarus would be sent back to his family to testify and warn them so that they will not end up in this torment that he was in. He was told that it is not possible! There is no second chance! He was told that they have *"Moses and the prophets"*, in other words they have **the Word of God**, and if they do not pay attention to it, there is nothing more that could be said or given to them. In our time we have the complete Word of God, not just the Old Testament that they had then, but people still do not seem to be willing to put effort into finding out about eternity. Most people spend more time planning their week or two week vacation and where they will spend it rather than where they will spend a *never-ending eternity* that all are faced with at the time of death that can come to anyone on any day. Is this not unconscionable and scary carelessness? Those who have studied the Bible, at least some, know that it gives clear and simple answers *on how to get to heaven from earth*, but yet will they will share their knowledge with their friends and family?! By their silence they are declaring that they do not really care about others. Wouldn't all of us who know that death instantly determines where we will spend eternity, want to share this important truth with those who may not yet know? By sharing Jesus and the gospel with them, we are inviting them to be with us in heaven forever. How can we not try our best to bring them to a point where they can make their decision and ask Jesus to forgive them and wash their sins away by His perfect blood sacrifice He offered on Calvary's

Cross for us all? Luke 16:19-31 reports of two places where souls and spirits of departed ones were held. Believers went to “Abraham’s bosom” (Paradise) and unbelievers were sent to “Torment”. After Jesus’ ascension to heaven, all born again believers, immediately upon their death, will go to be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8), but when unbelievers die, they still go to the “*place of torment*” Jesus told about where they wait until the **Great White Throne Judgment**, that takes place after the Millennial Kingdom, where we, as Christ’s own, have been with Jesus, our King, for a thousand years. That most likely means that we, as believers in Jesus, will be facing there our unsaved family and friends there who we had witnessed to, and who had rejected our witness, **but** we also will be facing those friends and family whom we did not warn, who will look at us with desperate eyes – asking **WHY DID YOU NOT TELL ME?** The poem, titled “**My Friend**”, I read in **Mark Cahill’s book, Paradise**, hit home with me and took away all my excuses why I too, at times, do not say what I ought to say. Perhaps it will alarm you too:

**“My Friend**

*My friend, I stand in judgment now  
And feel that you’re to blame somehow  
While on this earth I walked with you day by day  
And never did you point the way*

*You knew the Lord in truth and glory  
But never did you tell the story  
My knowledge then was very dim  
You could have led me safe to Him*

*Though we lived together here on earth  
You never told me of your second birth  
And now I stand this day condemned  
Because you failed to mention Him*

*You taught me many things, that’s true  
I called you friend and trusted you  
But now I learned, now it’s too late  
You should have kept me from this fate*

*We walked by day and talked by night  
And yet you showed me not the light  
You let me live, love and die  
And all the while you knew I’d never live on high*

*Yes, I called you friend in life  
And trusted you in joy and strife  
Yet in coming to this end  
I see you really weren’t my friend.”*

**Life is short, death is a sure, and eternity never ends.** We are created in God’s image, which means that we are eternal beings. **We will live forever – but where? The Bible tells that we will live forever either in heaven or in hell. Our love and concern for our unsaved family members and friends has to prompt us to speak up and share Jesus whom God**

the Father sent so that we can go to heaven. (John 3:16.) We are fully aware that it is more difficult to “get through” to our LDS family and friends than to those who are “no-name-lost people”, but if we do not even try, they may never have an opportunity to come to know the truth. **You may be the only representative of the real Jesus they will ever know!** It has been often said that “greatest obstacle to Truth is the assumption that you already have it”. It takes a lot more effort to challenge LDS people to consider **what the Bible really says about Jesus**, than someone who has not been taught additional and/or non-biblical concepts. Mormons, for sure, will object and say, “**What do you mean? I believe in Jesus. His name is even in our church buildings. We say prayers in his name. We end our Sunday school lessons and our talks’ in his name. We love Jesus.**” You should ask: **Jesus Who? Tell me about Him! Not what you have read that He has done, but WHO IS HE? Identity of Jesus is fundamental doctrine.** If one puts his/her faith in a counterfeit Jesus, he is a victim of “mistaken identity”, and that is a deadly mistake. Their answer should open the door, for a truthful LDS would proudly say something like this, “**Jesus is my elder brother from the preexistence. We all lived together with our heavenly parents and we learned there that he was the chosen one to come to earth and pay for Adam’s transgression so that we all can be resurrected and become like our heavenly parents and progress to their likeness. He showed us by example how to live so that we too can become gods.**” From that opening you can ask where this information originated. They will more than likely say that it came through their prophet Joseph Smith and it has been confirmed by living LDS prophets from his time on, and they may add that **they know it is true**. You then need to open your **KJV Bible** and ask if he/she has ever read that mankind did not come from heaven, that only that Jesus who is God with us preexisted and came from above? [It would help if you read first together Matthew 1:23 and John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:16.] These verses let us know that **Jesus is God, not our spirit brother**, and that **He created “all things”, “visible and invisible”**, including men and angels, and thus He could not be our brother or a brother of angels. Then read together John 8:23; 3:13, 31. There Jesus said that **men did not come from heaven and that He (God) is the only one who was in heaven before He became a man**. Jesus added (John 8:24) that we must **know and believe that He is God** to have our sins forgiven, for **only God can forgive sins**. (Mark 2:7.) After this, you can present the **Gospel of God** from 1 Cor. 15:1-4 to them. **The Gospel is a message of what Jesus did for us. It contrasts the LDS “gospel” that is “laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church”**. (3<sup>rd</sup> Article of Faith.) **The Gospel, declared by Paul, is a message that God became a man in Jesus, He died, was buried and resurrected in our place and in our behalf. We all are sinners in need of God’s forgiveness, and that is why Father God sent Jesus (John 3:16), the Second Person in Triune God, to become our perfect blood sacrifice, for “without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins”**. (Hebr. 9:22; 10:10.) He fulfilled the requirement established in Lev. 17:11, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” **Only by receiving Jesus can we become God’s children** (John 1:12), and in faith asking His forgiveness. **We are then born again as Jesus said we must be** (John 3:3,7), and God the Father accepts us as His children. (Rom. 8:15; 9:8.) Our faith in Jesus is the only requirement for salvation. **“This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”**(John 6:29.) **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”** (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:9-10; Gal. 2:16-21.)

I have presented this as a **suggestion** on how to get your witnessing “under way”. Actually **it could be this simple to present the gospel to those who do not know the true Jesus, but are following “another Jesus”, “another gospel”, and are under “another spirit”, warned in 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15**. If you have presented the gospel and read the scriptures together with your LDS family member or a friend, even by this brief presentation, you could have opened the door to their hearts and minds and you could see if they want to know more and continue the discussions. **Conversion is the work of God after we believe**, but we are His workmen to share His love and salvation message. One thing is sure,

having shared Jesus with them **in love**, they could not accuse you of not caring and not being their friend as this Mark Cahill's poem, "**My Friend**", quoted above, lamented.

*"I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4.)*  
**Robert Moffett, a great missionary statesman, had said, "We shall have all eternity in which to celebrate our victories, but only one short hour before the sun sets in which to win them. There are only a limited number of days in which to save souls. Are you going to spend your days investing in the things of this world, or putting up treasures in heaven? Are you going to start sowing seeds of salvation or are you going to plant happiness in this life alone?"** This is for each of us to decide.

**There are currently many issues that are troubling the high leadership of the Mormon Church**, and affecting its members, as (**now former**) **LDS historian and GA**, Marlin K. Jensen, revealed in spring of 2012, when he spoke to the students at the Utah State University, saying, among other disturbing things, that, "**they** (LDS members) **are leaving in droves**". **What Marlin K. Jensen said then, and what he had said two years earlier, in 2010**, when **he was sent with an assistant LDS historian, Richard Turley, to Sweden** to answer Swedish LDS leaders' troubling questions, **may have been among the reasons why Jensen** was released in September 2012 from his high positions in the leadership of the LDS Church. Recording and transcript of this meeting in Sweden 3 years ago, has now been brought to light (**not by the LDS Church, I may add**) and it is available all over the internet. **About 25 Swedes attended this fireside meeting including all the local bishops and stake presidents. Those in attendance were those that were knowledgeable about the Church historical issues that were troubling many Swedes.** [ Anyone can access these reports by typing the name **Hans H. Mattsson** on "*Google*".] You'd find out that **Hans H. Mattsson** is a *3rd generation LDS Church member from Sweden who as a young man served an LDS mission in London, and later as a bishop and stake president in Sweden before serving in the LDS church 3rd Quorum of the Seventy from 2000-2005 in the Europe Central area under LDS Apostle L. Tom Perry. He (Mattsson) was the highest ranking official in Sweden, who oversaw activities for the Mormon Church in Europe. Because he was in a position of authority, members would come to him with questions about Mormonism that had come up during their study and preparation for teaching Sunday school lessons. These questions eventually led Mattsson to doubt the history and even some doctrines of Mormonism.*

Richard Turley gave to those attending this meeting in Sweden a paper containing five websites, saying that "**these are the five very best websites for authentic answers to those questions.**" They asked Jensen and Turley if the Church stands behind these websites. Jensen said: "*Well they're all church institutions. They're either BYU or private institutions that are handled by very reliable and good Latter-day Saints.*" Turley added, "**they're not official church websites. We do have some official church things that are being developed ...**" When again asked if these were "**official Church sites**", Turley answered that **they were not, "They do not exist."** Some of the 15 questions presented were questions like whether or not Brigham Young actually taught that Adam was God; is there archaeological evidence for the civilizations described in the Book of Mormon; and how is it that DNA evidence does not support that the American Indians are Jewish descendants as the Church and the Book of Mormon teaches. They also presented questions why the Church and its missionaries display **pictures of Joseph Smith sitting at a table with the gold plates in front of him, translating, when eye witnesses to his work say that he had a rock in a hat that he buried his face into, having no plates in sight.** They asked why is the Church presenting a false picture of his "**translation work**" **as a fact**, when we know (which both Jensen and Turley admitted) that all he had was a **rock in his hat**? And

why is the Church saying that the Book of Mormon is a “translation from the gold plates” when plates were not anywhere in sight? To that Turley responded: “When Joseph used the term ‘translate,’ he meant revelation.” [My note: These Swedish LDS members perhaps did not know that Joseph Smith had received revelations by “this rock-and-a-hat-method” even after his Book of Mormon was finished. One of the Book of Mormon witnesses, David Whitmer, wrote that they needed more money to get the BoM printing finished, and “Joseph looked into the hat in which he placed the stone, and received a revelation that some of the brethren should go to Toronto, Canada, and that they would sell the copy-right of the Book of Mormon.” When they returned without any money, they “asked Joseph how it was that he had received a revelation from the Lord...[but it] had utterly failed...Joseph did not know how it was, so he enquired of the Lord about it, and behold the following revelation came through the stone: ‘Some revelations are of God: some revelations are of man: and some revelations are of the devil.’” (An Address to All Believers in Christ”, p. 31.)] The Swedes asked about the Book of Abraham, an Egyptian papyri, Joseph Smith claimed was written by “Abraham’s own hand”, but has later been proven to be just a pagan burial record having nothing to do with Abraham. Turley responded: “Book of Abraham. Very quickly, let me just say a few things about it very simple... it was received by revelation... There are lots of theories on that. The church does believe that the book of Abraham is the word of God and if you read the book of Abraham, there are doctrines and principles you will understand that are important to you. That is the church’s position. Exactly how Joseph Smith did it? There are lots of scholarly debates going on about that. But there’s excellent work going on at BYU that should be out in the next year.” [Why “scholarly debates at BYU” when the Church has a living prophet? Why doesn’t their prophet answers this?] Actually since it has become known that the Book of Abraham is not a translation from this Egyptian papyri, the defenders of Mormonism and their “scholars” have started to say that it is a “revelation” instead of translation. However, that is not what Joseph Smith had said – he called it a translation and he had even prepared his own “Egyptian Grammar and Alphabet” to accomplish it... [After the discovery of the Egyptian papyri, in 1967, there have been 5 more “prophets” in the LDS Church, but no answers from them! According to Turley, they now have to wait what “scholarly debates in BYU” decide that it is.] The Swedes also asked questions of Joseph Smith’s polygamy, his 33 or more wives, among them young girls of 14 and 15 years old, and his eleven marriages to other men’s wives (many of their husbands were faithful LDS men and even if not LDS, very decent husbands to their wives). Turley admitted that this is true, but added, “these are issues that have been around for a very long time. They’re not new.” This must have created another question in the minds of these Swedish Mormons: If they are old questions, why have they not been officially answered a long time ago? Both Jensen and Turley admitted that all these things were true, but kept repeating that there will be good answers coming to all their questions, saying “we’re putting it on the Internet next year.” Three years has past and still nothing!

[Google-Website has more information this, and there is also John Dehlin’s interview of Hans H. Mattsson.]

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**From our mailbox:** An LDS man wrote: *“I see nothing but intolerance on your website. You are trying to justify your hatred. I do not see a Jewish outreach or Buddhist outreach, but yet Mormons seem to offend you the most. It is a blatant example of what a Christian should not be. I will tell you that all it creates is a wedge between Mormons and Christians. I will be able to see who is a better Christian and if you are humble enough to repent from your intolerance. Mormons also believe in the Bible. We also believe in God who was once a man. Change was made by the Council of Nicaea in 325 where 300 bishops decided on Trinity – declaring that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were one personage. I am not intent to convince you. I could offer the same explanations to you since I believe in my facts and that I have just as much evidence for Joseph Smith and restored Church as you have against it.”*

**My answer:** I find it amazing that providing information is considered intolerance and even hateful by anyone! Our website is open to all who are seeking information. Isn't that the reason why you went there? Let me ask you a question: If you saw a blind person walking towards a dangerous cliff, would you not warn him about dangers ahead? That is what we are trying to do – warn people that believing in a god who is not God of the Bible, and in “another Jesus” and “another gospel”, will lead into eternal destruction. (See 2 Cor. 11:4, 13-15; Gal. 1:8-9; Isa. 9:15b-16.) We thank God that we still have a freedom to believe what we want to believe and worship, even if it is wrong. However our freedom does not eliminate our responsibility to inform and tell the truth to those who may not have inspected the dangers ahead and have not compared what the Bible actually has to say about God, Jesus and salvation. The God of the Bible commands that all who have been warned, will warn others. (Ez. 33:7-9.) Choice is left to every individual who is thus warned. 2 Tim. 3:16 informs all who **say that they believe the Bible**, that God gave His Word to us for a reason - so that we can know Who He Is and what His doctrine is – and then can **correct and inform** those who have not studied it carefully enough to know that **God is eternal God** (Ps. 90:2; Isa. 43:10) **and not a man** (Hosea 11:9). Without knowing and believing that **Jesus is God** who became man (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23; Phil. 2:5-8), our sins will not be forgiven (John 8:23-24; Mark 2:7) and we cannot go where He is. The reason we mainly speak about Mormonism is because we were Mormons and we know and understand what it teaches. The Mormon Church claims to be a “Christian church”, but it cannot be because the **theology of Mormonism is not Christian theology**, but is only a *counterfeit* – pretty good counterfeit as counterfeits go, I may add. I was fooled by it before I compared Mormonism to biblical Christianity, and now I know that it will not pass the test that the Bible presents of true Christianity, Jesus Christ and His gospel. (1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 John 10-11.) The reason why we do not have a specific outreach to Jews is because we are not experts in how to best reach them even though our faith is *Judeo-Christian faith* and has its roots in Judaism. Our Lord was a Jew, and so were all first believers in Christ, tens and tens of thousands of them. Our Bible is even written by Jews. There are ministries that are reaching out to them, as “*Jews for Jesus*” and “*Chosen Peoples Ministry*” that are led by those who have come from Judaism into Christianity, and who better understand how to reach out to them. We do not reach out Buddhists because it is totally different religion and we are not knowledgeable enough to focus on them, but we know Mormonism and we believe that the Lord Himself has prepared us to reach out to them, for we were part of them and we have a deep love and concern for them, just as Paul, after his conversion, prayed for his “*brethren, the Jews*” that they too might be saved. (Romans 10:1-4.) You mentioned “*Council of Nicaea*”. I assume you are referring to “*Nicene Creed*”, right? First of all, “*Creed*” is a statement of belief. The word *Creed* means “*I believe*”. There are other Creeds beside *Nicene Creed*, as *Athanasian Creed* and *Apostles Creed*. They were created to summarize the fundamentals of Biblical theology, for during the times before the printing press, people did not have their own Bibles, and could not study it for themselves. Now we can see for ourselves what the Bible says. These brief statements of beliefs were spread among Christians where they had settled to correct false teachings and heresies as **Arianism**, that was teaching that Jesus is not God and equal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. All these statements of beliefs (creeds) are teachings of the Bible, summarizing what it teaches about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The word “*Trinity*” is not found in the Bible, but the **concept of the Triune God** is found throughout the Word of God. These bishops that met in Nicaea agreed that this is what the Bible teaches, and they put it in writing basically for believers who had no personal access to the Bible. **The Christian belief in Triune God of the Bible is what unites Christianity. Those who deny Trinity are not considered to be biblical Christians.** Christian churches may have differences in non-essentials, but all Christianity is united in **who God is and how to be saved**. The LDS Church has their “*Creed*” as well. **That is their Articles of Faith.** Those who call themselves Mormons, must believe and accept what their “*Creed*” declares. (Please write again. Rauni)

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We want to thank you very, very much for your prayers, your help and support. We pray every day for you all and thank the Lord for you!!! Dennis is doing better. His shingles illness is still there, but not as painful. He has been working ever since we got back from Montana, even with pain and misery. I could not slow him down, and he insisted that as long as he has work offers, he must continue. He is thankful that he been able to do it. We will take Labor-Day weekend off and go camping, one more time, before summer is over. That is the reason I am getting this newsletter written early...

Our *new believers in Christ* are doing well. Eddie and Jacqui (Jackie) are doing great. They are witnessing to her parents and family, and Eddie's parents are so pleased to have Jacqui in their lives now. That is wonderful for all of them. We would not be surprised if we'll hear some future plans soon... They have said that they want to find time to come and meet us in person. It would be great!!! - Carmen, whom Pastor Terry baptized in April, is moving back to California, and he and Juan are getting married in October. He is flying here to help drive her home this week. She has been donating her belongings that do not fit in her car to *Calvary's new Thrift Store*. - Emily (a young lady from Harvard) is asking that we all continue to pray for her and for her boyfriend that she has been witnessing to now for months. We have sent her many LDS books and DVD's, etc. so that she'd be able to verify what Mormons actually do teach, for her boyfriend has denied that they teach that men can become gods, and many other fundamental teachings of Mormonism. He is trying to minimize some of the strangest Mormon doctrines, which is very typical "*LDS missionary tactic*", "*lying for the Lord*", as they say - (and that is supposed to be a good thing!) Kim (a young lady with the Air Force) is in Kuwait and she asked that we send her a replacement for John Study (MP3) that she had left home before she went there. She already let us know that she got it. She is doing well and she has thanked all of you for praying for her when she had her surgery and complications after it, a couple of months ago. We continue getting calls, emails, and visits from questioning LDS people. We thank the Lord for these opportunities to introduce them to Jesus of the Bible. It is a joy!!! It is interesting that the last several persons that have come to see us at our home have been temple-card holding Mormons, who are very troubled for the inconsistencies that they have started to see in the LDS Church and for which their leaders seem to have no answers. (There is so much to tell, but this letter is getting too long... so until next month...)

Please pray for our friends who are having health problems and need the Lord's direction: Dale & Sharon; Dick and Patti, Max, Pat, Merridy, Heber, Bruce, Tubi, Debbie and Ida. The Lord knows exactly what their needs are and He will respond accordingly. Please pray for those whom were are currently trying to bring to Christ and out of Mormonism.

We are starting our **Understanding Mormonism** class on the **8<sup>th</sup> of September** at Calvary Chapel. It might be a smaller class than in the past, but often smaller classes are good and people feel more free to ask questions and interact.

God bless you, and keep you in His care. He is coming soon!

Rauni & Dennis Higley [Our website: [www.hismin.com](http://www.hismin.com). You may contact us by email ([hismin@xmission.com](mailto:hismin@xmission.com)) or by phone: 801.943-5011]

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**Thought for the month: WE NEVER HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR TELLING THE TRUTH.**

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